

A Life-Changing Event

By: Kennedy Conley

It was dark out, which made sense considering it was just past seven. Every once in a while the WKYT channel 27 weathermen on the television would issue a tornado warning one right after another. It was March 2nd, meaning that it was just the beginning of the tornado season. I was sitting on the couch in my mamaw's house doing my math homework waiting for my mom to get home from work. I could tell something horrible was going to happen watching my mamaw run out to the back porch and looking up in the sky.

When my mom finally got home I told her I wanted to go home but she said "lets stay for a little bit". I could tell something was wrong. I started to get really worried. Then a ribbon of red started to scroll on the bottom of the screen. " The national weather service has issued a tornado warning for the following counties..."seconds later my mamaw, papaw, mom, brother, and I were all trying to squeeze together in my papaw's old green truck. We raced down the road to my cousin's house to get in their basement. When we

walked through the door I felt safe, but it was just the beginning of it all.

My mom was trying to text my dad who was on his way home from work telling him not to come home. A few seconds later we were rushed to the basement by the tornado that was coming our way. We all gathered together in the middle of the basement trying to feel safe. While my cousin was lighting candles. Then the TV went out making everyone worry even more than they already were. There was no service now therefore my mom couldn't get ahold of my dad.

Lighting flashed every 30 seconds between thunder rolls. Seconds later we were all running to a corner of the basement. It sounded like there was a big train passing the house. The house was shaking and stuff was falling. You could hear the wind coming from outside. When everything started to calm down my mom, papaw, and cousin went out of the basement to check things out and let my dog Bella out to use the restroom. When my mom came back I noticed she was crying. I knew something was wrong. I remember her coming up to my brother and I hugging. She told us her house was gone. We all started crying.

My cousin laid us some pool floats out on the floor that she kept in her basement. My brother,

cousin, and I all laid down covering ourselves with blankets. When all the tornado warnings and watches were away from us we could finally come up from the basement. We all went upstairs and sat down on the couch. We were all in shock. Since it was around 9:00pm we really couldn't see all the damage that was done. My papaw and mamaw took my brother, mom, and I to our other mamaw and papaw's house to spend the night considering we no longer had a house.

When we got there I remember walking up the steps and there stood my mom. I started crying and she said "what's wrong?" I said, "I don't have a house anymore!" she rushed my mom, brother, and I into her house supplying us with warm blankets. My mom called my dad and told that we were ok. And he said that he was on his way to us. The next morning, the sun was shining brighter than ever! The damage that was done shocking. I remember that every time we drove past my house I would have to close my eyes.

I went weeks without looking at my house, and the damage that had been done. The first time I actually looked at it was shocking. I couldn't believe my house was gone. A couple months later my new "soon to be" home was being built. Even

after 2 years when my family and I go somewhere there are still trees down everywhere. On my way to school every moment I think I'm dreaming. So when I squint my eyes I just see a tree that I have never seen before and that its all real.